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The 'New' CIA?

YOU may be wondering what's happening to the Central Intelligence Agency. The last place a super secret spy outfit is supposed to appear is on Page One. But that's where our "spooks" keep showing up.

Last week, the new director of the CIA got caught out writing a letter to a St. Louis newspaper praising an editorial blasting Sen. Fulbright. Even Senators who dislike Sen. Fulbright were riled. Now there's another: The case of the high-ranking CIA man accused of taking secret documents home, and his countercharge the CIA raided his house, took the documents and then some of his wife's jewelry was found missing.

Well, don't worry. We've thought about it and we offer you a choice of four explanations:

1. — Those CIA people are lonely.

There they are cooped up in a hush-hush headquarters on the banks of the Potomac without so much as a sign on the building. They want people to know they're alive.

2. — The Agency has been feeling bad about its image — cloak and dagger, rough stuff — and may have hired a public relations firm to soften the image. The PR plan: Make some prize bloopers in full public view, and the whole world will love you.

3. — It may be a plot to put the Soviet counter-espionage organization to sleep. The Russian spies see the bloopers, laugh their heads off, figure their arch-foe has lost its touch, and lower their guard.

4. — The Central Intelligence Agency may be planning to drop its middle name.